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ROBERTS SCORES BULLER

London, April 17,-The War Office tonight published in the Gazette a dispatch from Lord Roberts, dated Feb ruary 13, submitting General Buller dispatches describing the Spion Kop and other operations from January 14 to January 24. Lord Roberts deals severely with General Warren and The Best Service

Severely with General Warren and some others. Even General Buller does not escape. Lord Roberts complains that the plan of operations is not clearly described in the dispatches. After sketching General Buller's intentions, as communicated to Sir Charles where the communicated to Sir Charles where the communicated to Sir Charles Warren, who commanded the whole force, Lord Roberts points out that General Warren seems to have concluded after consultation with his offieers that the flanking movement ordered by General Buller was impractica-ble, and therefore so changed the plan of advance as to necessitate the cap-ture and retention of Spion Kop. Lord Roberts continues:
"As Warren considered it impossible

to make the wide flanking movement which was recommended, if not actu-ally prescribed, in the secret instructions, he should forthwith have ac quainted Buller with the course he proposed to adopt. There is nothing to show whether he did so or not. But it is only fair to Warren to point out that Buller appears throughout to have been aware of what was happening. Regarding the withdrawal Spion Kop, the retention of which had become essential to the relief of Lady-smith, Lord Roberts says:

"I regret to be unable to concur with Buller in thinking Thornycroft exer-cised wise discretion in ordering the troops to retire. I am of the opinion that Thornycroft's assumption of responsibility and nethority was wholly inexcusable. During the night the enemy a fire could not have been formi.able, and it would not have taken more than two or three hours for Thornycroft to communicate by messenger with Major General Coke or Warren. Coke appears to have left Spion Kop at 9:30 p. m., for the pur-pose of consulting with Warren. Up to that time the idea of withdrawal had not been entertained. Yet almost immediately after Coke's departure Thornycroft issued the order, without reference to superior authority, which upset the whole plan of operations and endered unavailing the sacrifices made to carry it into effect. On the other hand, it is only right to say that Thornycroft appears to have behaved in a very gallant manner throughout

the day.
"It is to be regretted that Warren did not himself visit Spion Kop in the afternoon or evening, knowing, as he did, that the state of affairs was very critical and that the loss of the posi-tion would involve the failure of the operations. He consequently was obliged to summon Coke to his headquarters, and the command at Spion Kop thus devolved on Thornveroft, unknown to Coke, who was under the impression that the command devolved upon Colonel Hill as senior officer. Omissions or mistakes of this nature may be trifling in themselves, yet they may exercise an important influence over the course of events, and I believe Buller was justified in remarking There was a want of organization and system which acted most unfavorably on the defense.

"The attempt to relieve Ladysmith was well devised, and I agree with Buller in thinking it ought to have suc-ceeded. That it failed may in some measure have been due to the difficulties of the ground and the commanding positions held by the enemy, and probably also to errors of judgment and want of administrative capacity on the part of Warren. But whatever faults Warren may have committed, the fallure must also be attributed to the disinclination of the officer in the supreme command to assert his authority and see that what he thought best done and also to the unwarrantable and needless assumption of responsi-bling by a subordinate officer." The dispatch concludes:

"The gratifying feature of these dis-patches is the admirable behavior of the troops throughout the operation."

Casualties at Wepener. Aliwal North, April 14.—Colonel Grenfell wires that the casualties at Wepener include Quartermaster Williams, Lieut. Halford and Lieut. Dunan and 15 men wounded.

Sir Godfrey Lagden, resident Com-missioner at Mesru, telegraphs that no shelling has been heard from the direction of Wepener today. A regiment of British infantry and a bettery of arillery arrived Friday.

General Brabant's headquarters and all the mounted troops have gone to

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